

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
Minutes – December 10, 2010
Governor's Crime Commission
1201 Front Street, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC**

Commission Member Attendees: Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson, The Honorable Valerie Asbell, David Badger, The Honorable Sharon Barrett, Marisol Barr, Sherry Bradsher (representing Secretary Lanier Cansler), Lynn Bryant, The Honorable Lorrin Freeman, Beth Froehling, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Chief John Guard, The Honorable Linda Holden-Cox, Cheryl Howell, Alisa Hunt-Lowery, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Sheriff Dewey E. Jones, Jo Liles, Representative Marian McLawhorn, Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Rev. Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih, Dr. Beth Moracco, Ericka Shearin (representing Senator Doug Berger), and Ben Thalheimer

Guest Attendees: Tom Campbell, Robin Colbert, Michael Lewis and Hal Pell

Department of Administration (DOA) Attendees: Jill Dinwiddie, Mary Williams-Stover, Cindy Olsen, Christy Agner

A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – The Honorable Sharon Barrett

Judge Sharon Barrett asked the three newly appointed members to come forward to be sworn in. The three new members, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Alisa Hunt Lowery and Reverend Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih, were sworn in by Judge Barrett. Judge Barrett congratulated the newly sworn members and a group photo was taken.

C. INTRODUCTIONS – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

Members introduced themselves and their affiliations.

The Chair pointed out that the meeting would focus on legislative issues and she reminded new members that the Ethics Act requires that they attend Ethics training within six months of being appointed. After that first training, members are required to attend Ethics training every two years. The question was asked as to whether members have to attend a specific Ethics training. The response was that the Ethics training has to be one that the state offers. Any other training that is not state-sponsored does not qualify.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

The Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the September 17, 2010 meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Since there were none, a motion was made (Lorrin Freeman), seconded (Janeen Gingrich) and passed that the minutes of the September 17, 2010 DV Commission meeting be approved as written.

E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Jill Dinwiddie, Executive Director

- Ms. Dinwiddie began her report by stating that another grant cycle has been completed and programs have received 1st and 2nd quarter funds.
- The Governor's Conference for Women was held on November 9, 2010 and 1,500 people attended. Two hundred scholarships were awarded and 75 state employees were awarded scholarships for half price tickets.
- The Council for Women office still has unfilled vacancies and Cindy Olsen, Administrative Assistant, will be moving to the Deputy Secretary's office. It is uncertain whether the Council will be able to fill these vacancies.
- The Council for Women office has initiated planning for an event to celebrate Women's

History month in March 2011. The event will be held at the Museum of History and will be co-sponsored by the museum.

- The Council for Women has developed a new brochure that has been printed and paid for with contributions from a Council for Women board member.
- The final version of the Displaced Homemaker manual is being reviewed by the Public Information Office staff and will be available for distribution soon.

F. SPECIAL REPORT – JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Representative Marian McLawhorn

- Representative Marian McLawhorn began her report by stating that she wanted to alert DV Commission members to changes in representation at the legislature and the shift in power. She stated that she had requested that Hal Pell, Legislative staff to the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence, be present at today's meeting to answer any questions that may arise.
- Representative McLawhorn announced that her re-election was successful, so will be serving in the Legislature for the next two years. She reminded DV Commission members to be sure to make contact with their local legislators and to ask prominent members in their community to do the same. Representative McLawhorn also recommended that directors of programs extend an invitation to their local legislators to visit their program and to use it as an opportunity to share with their representatives where their program's funding comes from and what the money is used for. Representative McLawhorn pointed out that the Legislative Guide members received at a previous DV Commission meeting offers guidelines on contacting legislators.
- She stated that she prefers to be contacted by e-mail, with the Subject line "DV Commission meeting" in order to get her attention.
- She recommended that DV Commission members pay close attention to changes and amendments as they go through the General Assembly process, and pointed out that it's important that DV Commission members not assume that legislators have heard about an issue. Instead, make them aware of important issues.
- Representative McLawhorn pointed out that the Governor will be looking to save money and it is likely to result in a decrease in the number of boards and commissions. She stated that the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence is in statute and she doesn't foresee changes. She stated that the committee meets quarterly and is scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 14th at 10:00 am in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. All are invited to attend. Representative McLawhorn will be chairing Tuesday's meeting.
- The Legislature is scheduled to convene on January 26, 2011 and a new Speaker of the House will be in place.
- She pointed out the "Men of Peace" calendar that was recently presented at the Domestic Violence press conference in Greenville, includes Chief John Guard as one of the men of peace featured in the calendar. Proceeds from the sale of each \$15 calendar will benefit the Pitt County Center for Family Violence Prevention. Representative McLawhorn, who represents Pitt County, stated that she is very proud of the Men of Peace for their commitment to this cause.
- The question was asked as to whether the DV Commission is at risk of being abolished during budget cuts. Representative McLawhorn responded that the DV Commission is mandated by statute and that it would take legislative action to abolish it.

G. SPECIAL REPORT – DV GRANTS ALLOCATIONS TASKFORCE – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

- Chair Parker Thompson began by giving an overview of the recommendations she plans to share with the Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence next Tuesday. Members

should have received a copy of this document via their e-mail.

- She thanked all of the members and others for serving on the Ad Hoc Taskforce and she reviewed highlights from the proposed report to JLC.
- Beth Froehling with the NC Coalition against Domestic Violence thanked Karen Parker-Thompson and members of the taskforce for their work on the recommendations. Ms. Froehling stated that the coalition has voted to support the taskforce's recommendations.
- Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie stated that a meeting was held at the Department of Administration where a draft of the report was discussed. She stated that this past grant cycle ended with \$46,700 of program funds being reverted back to the department. The reversion of funds is expected to continue. A recommendation was made to allow the reverted funds to go toward automating the grant process at the Council for Women.
- Questions regarding Recommendation # 2 in the report dealt with the wish to clarify authority of the Council for Women relative to making decisions regarding grants administration.
- Discussion included not moving forward with draft legislation for one year since the Council for Women office is short on staff. One Regional office (two positions) has been cut and another may soon be eliminated, which would bring the number of Region Directors down from five to four.

H. SPECIAL REPORT – PROPOSED PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN – Jenny Ward, Council for Women Board member

- Ms. Ward gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Public Awareness Campaign. She began by stating that it is hoped that this campaign will be a public-private partnership and a multi-year campaign.
- Ms. Ward shared the group's definition of Intimate Partner Violence and the statistics for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The statistics include the number of calls received and the number of actual clients served. They looked at factors such as socio economic status, age, and ethnicity.
- Ms. Ward reported that their campaign goals are to: educate, connect and inspire as well as to have measurable objectives such as: target audiences, increasing efficiency of efforts and defining healthy relationships. She pointed out that the target audiences will include primary, secondary and tertiary.
- Ms. Ward stated that October/November 2011 would be an ideal campaign kickoff target. In order to accomplish this, they will be creating strategic alliances with community partners across the state and that the campaign will include social media and websites. The intention is to enlist popular singers, movie theaters, colleges and universities, as well as professional athletes. Ms. Ward shared the group's plan to utilize the workplace, the malls, and the faith community.
- Discussion included the following feedback on the two proposed creative approaches: the importance of portraying a positive and empowering message and image; The use of the wording "domestic violence" and "violence against women" are not one in the same; It is important to portray the image that not all men are abusers and that men can help to change attitudes of those who do abuse women; males need to be reached much earlier than 18 years of age.
- The affect that violence can have on children and the likelihood that they will repeat the pattern of violence was also a concern. It was recommended that the place to start would be with the kids.
- The Chair stated that members who would like to be part of the Public Awareness Campaign Task Force are welcome to join the group.
- Time did not allow for reports from subcommittees so this information will be reported at the next meeting and/or emailed to members.

**I. SPECIAL REPORT – NCCADV 2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE AND 2011 AGENDA
– Beth Froehling**

- Ms. Froehling distributed folders containing NC Coalition against Domestic Violence information. She reported that this legislative session, funding will be their biggest focus, which includes the Victim's Compensation fund that was cut last year.

J. MEETING ADJOURNED –

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson thanked everyone for coming and for all their support. Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.